

<b>PR reference</b>
Duero River Basin Authority, Spain

<b>Date:</b> (November 2015, 9 -11)
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## Terms of References

<b>RCA</b>	Duero River Basin Authority, Spain (Confederación Hidrográfica del Duero. CHD)
<b>RCA counterpart responsible for the PR</b>	Angel J. González Santos <a href="mailto:ags@chduero.es">ags@chduero.es</a>
<b>Reviewing expert</b>	Paloma Crespo Iniesta <a href="mailto:pcrespo@chguadiana.es">pcrespo@chguadiana.es</a>

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION and PR OVERALL OBJECTIVES

In the public participation process has identified some areas for improvement Duero River Basin management Plan (2009-2015). The general objectives of this peer review are improving some aspects of the Duero River Basin management Plan in order to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the demands on public participation.

### 2. EXPECTED RESULTS

Expected results	Estimated number of reviewing expert man- days necessary	Field of competencies concerned for the expert
Design a methodology to integrate the objectives of conservation of habitats and species related to water with the environmental objectives of the WFD. Suggest quality indicators of ecological status of water bodies that are sensitive indicators of habitats and species conservation status (Paloma Crespo Iniesta)	9	Monitoring Objectives Biology Ecology Chemistry Hydrology

### 3. NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE REVIEW

List of relevant documentation or sources to be delivered by the RCA (language to be specified)

<b>Name of the documents</b>	<b>Description / Notice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duero RBMP Memory</li> </ul>	Pdf file with the RBMP content (Spanish).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duero RBMP: Annex 8. Status water bodies classification</li> </ul>	Pdf file with the classification of state and environmental objectives for each water body. Quality elements considered (Spanish).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duero RBMP: Annex 3. Protected Areas</li> </ul>	Pdf file with information on protected areas Natura 2000 (Spanish)

<b>Websites - Online resources</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Description/ Notice</b>	<b>Address</b>
Documentation	Pdf files with all the information about Duero RBMP	<a href="http://www.chduero.es">www.chduero.es</a>
Information system of Duero RBMP	Alphanumeric and graphic documentation of the Duero RBMP. All information can be downloaded as .shp	<a href="http://www.mirame.chduero.es/DMA Duero_09/index.faces">http://www.mirame.chduero.es/DMA Duero_09/index.faces</a>

## 4. DETAILED MISSIONS SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Date/ Hour</b>	November 9	November 10	November 11	November 26
<b>8:00 - 9:00</b>			Programme of Measures and Natura 2000 (Ignacio Rodríguez)	
<b>9:00- 10:00</b>			Environmental flows and Natura 2000 (Javier Rodríguez, Rafael Vázquez)	
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>		Regional Administration in Castilla y León. Service for the Management of Protected Natural Areas: Natura 2000 Autonomic Authority (Ignacio Rodríguez, José Ignacio Molina)	Conclusions (Ángel J. González, Ignacio Rodríguez, Javier Rodríguez, Rafael Vázquez)	SEO BirdLife Interview (Roberto González)
<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	Introduction (Ángel J. González, Ignacio Rodríguez, Javier Fernández, Jaime Cortés)			
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>				
<b>12:30 - 13:00</b>	Integration of identification of pressures and assessment of impacts in Natura 2000 (Ignacio Rodríguez, Jaime Cortés)			
<b>13:00 - 13:30</b>				
<b>13:30 - 14:00</b>		LIFE Project MedWetRivers (Ángel J. González, Ignacio Rodríguez, Tomás Blanco)		
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>				
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>				
<b>16:00 - 17:00</b>	Monitoring and status assessment programmes (Pablo Seisdedos, Ignacio Rodríguez, Javier Fernández)			
<b>17:00 - 18:00</b>				
<b>18:00 - 18:30</b>				

## 5. CONTACTS DETAILS

*Principal local contacts to meet*

	Name	Occupation	E-mail	Phone number
1	Angel J. González Santos	Head Unit Water Plan Office (CHD)	<a href="mailto:ags@chduero.es">ags@chduero.es</a>	+34983215405
2	Javier Fernández Pereira	Head Water Plan Area (CHD)	<a href="mailto:jfp@chduero.es">jfp@chduero.es</a>	+34983215470
3	Ignacio Rodríguez Muñoz	Technical Job N28 (CHD)	<a href="mailto:irm@chduero.es">irm@chduero.es</a>	+34983215475
4	Jaime Cortés	Consultor (Tragsatec)	<a href="mailto:jcortes2@tragsa.es">jcortes2@tragsa.es</a>	
5	Pablo Seisdedos	Service in the Water Comissariat for Water Quality (CHD)	<a href="mailto:psf@chduero.es">psf@chduero.es</a>	
6	Tomás Blanco	Consultor (Estudios y Proyectos Línea S.L.)		
7	Javier Rodríguez Arroyo	Information Service. (CHD)	<a href="mailto:ira@chduero.es">ira@chduero.es</a>	
8	Rafael Vázquez Delgado	Technical Job N26 (CHD)	<a href="mailto:rvd@chduero.es">rvd@chduero.es</a>	
9	José Ignacio Molina	Regional Administration in Castilla y León. Service for the Management of Protected Natural Areas		
10	Roberto González	SEO BirdLife	<a href="mailto:rgonzalez@seo.org">rgonzalez@seo.org</a>	+34942223351

## 6. PEER REVIEW REPORT

**Public peer review reports are available on the project website**

[www.aquacoope.org/peer.review/](http://www.aquacoope.org/peer.review/)

- 1 - Conclusions and recommendations regarding the reviewed documentation;
- 2 - List of persons met during the mission & short summary of meeting content/results ;
- 3 – Proposal of follow up activities to be done by RCA as well as potential time schedule;
- 4 - List & upload of documents that could be usefully put on the project's intranet;
- 5 - Summary in 15 lines of the report to be included in the overall Peer Review project report
- 6- General recommendations derived from the exchange. These recommendations will be shared by the secretariat with the whole peer review community for a wider dissemination of the lessons learned of the peer review experience.

### *Annexes*

- Documents prepared during and/or for the mission;
- Presentation(s) used during the mission;
- Useful web-links.

### **6.1 – Conclusions and recommendations regarding the reviewed documentation**

The listed documents (Duero RBMP Memory, Duero RBMP: Annex 8. Status water bodies classification; and Duero RBMP: Annex 3. Protected Areas) were carefully read. Also the documents related to the LIFE project MedWetRivers.

Comments were provided within the discussions under the respective topics.

### **6.2 – List of persons met during the mission & short summary of meeting content/results**

<b><i>Date/ Hour</i></b>	<b><i>Activities</i></b>	<b><i>Persons involved</i></b>
Mon 9.11.2015 10.30–12:00	Introduction Presentation of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft RBMP	1, 2, 3, 4
Some cornerstones of the Peer Review mission were presented as well as the aims of the mission and the meetings. The current situation was summarized and pointed out the changes between the first and the second RBMP related to the integration of the objectives of conservation of habitats and species related to water with the environmental objectives of the WFD.		
Mon 9.11.2015 12:00 – 15:30	Integration of identification of pressures and assessment of impacts in Natura 2000	3, 4

Duero RBA has clearly summarized in the main document all changes between the 1st and the 2nd RBMP in the results of the identification of pressures and assessment of impacts. The process is well advanced and the identification of pressures, the significant pressures and assessment of impacts have improved significantly. Besides, the use of indexes to measure the level of significance increases the reliability.

A detailed discussion about hydromorphological parameters and indexes and their use to assessment of significant pressures and impacts took place.

Mon 9.11.2015 16.00 - 18:30	Monitoring and status assessment programmes	2, 3, 5
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Information on the type and magnitude of the significant anthropogenic pressures to which the water bodies in each basin district are subject has to been collected and maintained. There is an assessment of the susceptibility of the water status of bodies to the pressures identified, and of the likelihood that water bodies within the river basin district will fail to meet the environmental quality objectives set under WFD Article 4.

This assessment will allow restructuring the monitoring programmes.

It was discussed during the session some indexes and how the hydromorphological indexes can set the limit between good and moderate status.

Besides it was discussed the additional monitoring requirements for protected areas. Protected Areas include bodies of surface water and groundwater used for habitat and species protection areas identified under the Birds Directive or the Habitats Directive. In terms of habitat and species protection areas, bodies of water forming these areas must be included in operational monitoring if they are identified as being at risk of not meeting their environmental objectives. Monitoring is carried out to assess the magnitude and impact of all relevant significant pressures on these bodies, and where necessary, to assess changes in the status of such bodies resulting from the programmes of measures. Monitoring will also continue until the areas satisfy the water-related requirements of the legislation under which they are designated and met their objectives under WFD Article 4.

Tue 10.11.2015 9:00- 13:00	Regional Administration in Castilla y León. Service for the Management of Protected Natural Areas: Natura 2000 Autonomic Authority	3, 9
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Interdisciplinary discussion is promoted between WFD and Natura 200 experts from the different responsible administrations in order to act jointly.

The integration between WFD and Habitats and Birds Directives needs interdisciplinary discussions with ecologists, water experts and nature protection experts, and of course, with experts from WFD and Natura 2000 responsible administrations. The different administrations find many difficulties when the objectives of the WFD and Habitats and Birds Directives should be integrated.

Duero RBA and Regional Administration in Castilla y León are working together to improve the coordination. They represent some of the partners in three different LIFE projects: LIFE project DESMANIA, LIFE project CIPRIBER and LIFE project MedWetRivers.

It is underlined the importance of having a good identification of pressures in Natura 2000 designated areas that must be consistent with the WFD. In addition, we talk about future

tasks to be performed to improve the integration of planning Natura 2000 Network in water planning.		
Tue 10.11.2015 13:00 – 15:00	LIFE Project MedWetRivers: Action 6	1,3,6
<p>The aims of the project are the Sites of Communitarian Importance and the Special Protection Areas designated under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, both of these areas represent Mediterranean wetlands and rivers.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 Management and Monitoring Programme for Mediterranean wetlands and rivers (MedWetRivers; <a href="http://www.lifemedwetrivers.eu/en">http://www.lifemedwetrivers.eu/en</a>) is intended to contribute to the maintenance of these areas of great natural value by means of the development of the tools to gain a sustainable management of these areas and monitoring their natural values. The project covers a full amount of 418,179.23 ha (17% of the Natura 2000 network in Castilla y León).</p> <p>The preparatory action number 6 deals with the assessment of coherence and connectivity (surface water bodies and groundwater bodies) of the Natura 2000 network in Castilla y León (Document: Presentación reunión CHD 10_11_2015.pdf), noting the difficulties that have been found so far. It has carried out an analysis of pressures between Directives Natura 2000 and WFD, detecting some synergies; and some important differences that must be corrected view to achieving a coherent analysis between the different plans that affect Natura 2000 sites.</p>		
Wed 11.11.2015 8:00-9:00	Programme of Measures and Natura 2000	3
<p>An analysis of integration of identification of pressures and assessment of impacts in Natura 2000 was carried out. Analysis includes a comparison of pressures between WFD and Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>It has showed some gaps and divergences which have to be corrected with the aim of achieving consistency and coherence in the Natura 2000 planning process.</p>		
Wed 11.11.2015 9:00 – 10:00	Environmental flows and Natura 2000	7, 8
<p>There has been an important consensus procedure of environmental flows in many water bodies. Besides, there were some meetings between the Duero RBA and stakeholders previously.</p> <p>The case of study of Requejada dam, where it was tested and monitored a controlled release of a geomorphic flow, was explained (cfr. Annex 4 of Duero RBMP).</p> <p>There were discussed how to set the environmental flows in the Protection Areas designated under the Habitats and Birds Directives and how this may affect to the protected areas.</p>		

Wed 11.11.2015 10:00 – 11:00	Conclusions	1,2,7,8
Wrap up and conclusions of the mission.		
Thu 26.11.2015 10:00 – 12:00	SEO BirdLife Interview	10
<p>In order to promote interdisciplinary discussion with ecologist experts for acting jointly, after the mission there was a working session with SEO BirdLife.</p> <p>During the session it was analyzed the allegations and arguments that SEO BirdLife submitted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft RBMP.</p> <p>The great progress made in the integration of conservation objectives in water planning and analyzed how to incorporate the activities of the various authorities with jurisdiction in the matter (regional administration) in the water planning process is emphasized.</p>		

### 6.3 – Proposal of follow up activities to be done by RCA as well as potential time schedule

Duero RBA is working to improve the identification of pressures and assessment of impacts. It will be carried out the identification of pressures and assessment of impacts in Natura 2000 protected areas.

Information on the type and magnitude of the significant anthropogenic pressures to which the water bodies in each basin district are subject has to been collected and maintained. The results of the identification of pressures and assessment of impacts will allow restructuring the monitoring and status assessment programmes.

Among other aspects, the disconnection between surface water bodies and groundwater can be evaluated in order to improve the assessment of impacts.

In the LIFE projects framework, where Duero RBA participates, and particularly in LIFE project MedWetRivers, the coordination between administrations and the information exchange must continue to achieve the integration of the objectives of conservation of habitats and species related to water with the environmental objectives of the WFD.

After the environmental flows establishment it has to continue the tracking and monitoring of results.

### 6.4 – List & upload of documents that could be usefully put on the project’s intranet

[Presentación reunión CHD 10\\_11\\_2015.pdf](#) : *“Elaboración de un Diagnóstico de coherencia y conectividad de las masas de agua superficiales y subterráneas pertenecientes a la Red Natura 2000, incluidas en el ámbito de actuación del proyecto LIFE MedWetRivers en la cuenca del Duero”.* (Spanish)

## **6.5 - Summary in 15 lines of the report to be included in the overall Peer Review project report**

In the revision of the Duero River Basin management Plan of the Duero River Basin Authority considerable progress has been made in relation to the first cycle of planning, regarding the integration of the conservation of habitats and species related to water with the environmental objectives of the hydrological planning.

A number of works related to the establishment of environmental flows, the improvement of analysis of pressures and important works coordinated with the Natura 2000 protected areas of the regional administration, have been carried out, which, together with different projects aimed at improving the longitudinal and transverse continuity, represent an example to follow in other areas.

In addition, progress continues towards an improvement of the coordination between different administrations in order to be able to integrate the planning tools established for the areas Natura 2000 once they have been defined by the regional administration, which is so far in process of development. Moreover, the indicators to be set in order to assess and follow the developed planning will be incorporated to the Plan. It is necessary to continue requesting the competent authority managing Natura 2000, to provide the information related to the planning instruments as well as that on measures and follow-up indicators of this planning, as well as the corresponding mapping.

## **6.6 – General recommendations derived from the exchange. These recommendations will be shared by the secretariat with the whole peer review community for a wider dissemination of the lessons learned of the peer review experience.**

After considering the results obtained following the activities developed within this second RBMP, we observe that the progress in the integration of the objectives of conservation of habitats and species related to the aquatic medium in the hydrological planning and according to the Water Framework Directive, are difficult to achieve in spite of all the work carried out. A good status of the water bodies do not often guarantee a good condition of conservation of habitats and/or of the species related to them.

The establishment of additional requirements for water bodies has to be addressed once the appropriate information is available, which is so far in the process of elaboration by the regional administration. The information gap is an added difficulty, because frequently the requirements have not been defined yet.

An in-depth review of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive as well as an improvement of the coherence and an analysis of the matches and divergences between the Habitats and Species Directives and the Water Framework Directive, are needed.

The development of governance and coordination measures between different administrations is equally necessary, in particular in order to improve the usefulness and functionality of the meetings of the Committee of Competent Authorities and to achieve a better integrated participation of different administrations.

### **Annexes**

- Useful web-links and presentation.

[www.chduero.es](http://www.chduero.es)

[www.lifemedwetrivers.eu/en](http://www.lifemedwetrivers.eu/en)

File Presentación reunión CHD 10\_11\_2015.pdf